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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 19 | Humidity 78% Light rain Sensex 81,481 | Nifty 24,855 | Gold 98,340 | Silver 1,13,024 | Dollar 87.69 | Euro 100.65 | GBP 116.53

STICKING POINTS

Liquor abuse and caste-based discrimination emerge top issues during citizens' meet with police in Bengaluru Rural

PAGE 3

STILL LIFE

Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee was revived in 2023, but it still remains inactive as BBMP delays meetings and follow-up action

PAGE 5

Retired IAF officer pays Rs 3 lakh as GST to interior design firm, but when he demanded invoice, he is stonewalled — case shows how corrupt businesses collect huge sums towards tax to cheat customer & exchequer

TAX TREACHERY

Most cases in services sector as customers unaware of importance of GST invoice

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PAGE 7: CRACKDOWN IS ON

In yet another case that exposes the growing misuse of GST by unscrupulous service providers, a retired Group Captain of the Indian Air Force has alleged that a Hyderabad-based interior design firm not only duped him of lakhs in service charges but also withheld the GST amount that was supposed to be paid to the government. The case brings to light how many citizens remain unaware of GST invoice norms and how this ignorance is being exploited.

Mittapalli Dipak, retired IAF officer, a resident of Yelahanka, had engaged the services of Nilay Design Studio, run by Shashi Kumar and Mohini Gadwala, in September 2024 for the interiors of his new home in Bengaluru.

Impressed by their website and claims of high-end projects in Hyderabad and Bengaluru, the officer signed an agreement worth ₹24.08 lakh, including a GST component of ₹3.06 lakh. Over ₹23 lakh was paid in tranches via online bank transfers.

As per the agreement, the final ₹1 lakh payment was to be made upon receiving a valid GST invoice. However, when the work neared completion and the officer began requesting the invoice, the designer refused to respond, ignoring eight emails and several calls over months. Even after collecting GST from the customer, the designer claimed that he had no obligation to issue a GST invoice, raising serious doubts about tax evasion.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

> **"In such situations, the consumer pays GST in good faith, assuming compliance with the law. However, when that amount is never deposited with the Department, it amounts to outright fraud and a direct loss to the GST revenue system**
>
> —Raghavendra Sanjeevarao, High Court lawyer

On a cannabis high

158 kg of high-potency hybrid ganja seized in State between Jan and May this year, which is highest quantity across all states

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Between January and May this year, the Drug Law Enforcement Agencies have seized 158 kg of high-potency hybrid cannabis from Karnataka, the highest quantity across all states in the country.

The amount seized this year is also sky high compared with the previous two years. In 2024 (January to December), the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) seized 56 kg of cannabis from Karnataka, and in 2023, only 8.4 kg of this substance was seized.

Karnataka has also recorded the highest arrests made this year for smuggling and distribution of this substance. NCB made 45 arrests in 26 cases.

Following Karnataka is Gujarat with 85 kg of hybrid cannabis seized by NCB under seven cases.

Experts working at grassroots levels, combating youth drug use, say a lot of such substances are directed towards the school and college-going population of Karnataka, including Bengaluru.

"Speaking from experience, it is clear that the majority of such substances being circulated are being consumed by the student community.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Unlimited entertainment

Nexus Shantiniketan Mall is presenting 'Thrillscape', the ultimate immersive digital adventure zone, crafted with next-gen technologies blurring the line between reality and the digital realm to offer a futuristic entertainment experience. **Where: Nexus Shantiniketan Mall; When: Until August 31, 12 pm to 9 pm**

02 Musical escape

Windmills is presenting an immersive weekend of live music featuring Katya Krishnan, a Singapore-based South Asian singer-songwriter, known for her emotionally rich performances and genre-bending sound, Katya blends R&B, pop, folk, and rock through soulful vocals and raw storytelling. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: August 1 and 2, 7 pm**

03 Artful interaction

Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) is presenting 'Shape of a Thought: Letters from Ram Kumar', navigating the artist's nuanced engagement with abstraction by inviting the viewer not to decipher, but to dwell on a constellation of thoughts, feelings, and memories. **Where: Museum of Art and Photography, Ashok Nagar; When: July 26 onwards**

04 Reel adventure

NGMA Bengaluru, in collaboration with Ananya Drishya, a city-based artists' collective led by SG Vasudev, is organising a video screening of nine artists shot during the COVID pandemic lockdown, sharing their work progress and methodology. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Palace Road; When: August 1, 5.30 pm**

05 Lost in the music

Kumar Sanu, known for his countless iconic hit songs, is set to take the stage and mesmerise the audience with his timeless, soulful music. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: August 9, 6 pm**

Residents upset over poor lake condition

Despite maintenance contract, Kembattahalli Lake suffers from rampant garbage dumping and neglect, with rainwater not reaching lake due to blockages, say residents

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Residents of Gottigere have raised concerns with the authorities regarding the lack of rainwater flow into Kembattahalli Lake, which was rejuvenated by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Lakes Department at an estimated cost of Rs 2.5 crore in 2022.

The residents, especially those visiting the lake for daily walks, were delighted to see it brimming with water in 2023. However, residents were dismayed to find that during the recent monsoon season, rainwater was not reaching the lake—leading them to question the efficiency of the drain network and the sustainability of the rejuvenation efforts.

"We have approached the BBMP engineers and written letters to them but to no avail," said Shailesh Charati, a resident, adding that despite a maintenance contract the lake now suffers from rampant garbage dumping and unchecked neglect. "Most importantly, the BBMP officials in charge of the lake and the stormwater drains engineer are not willing to look into the water diversion problem," said Charati.

He said the ward engineers are not reachable on the phone when contacted for the removal of silt from the roadside drain.

Expressing a similar opinion, Vishwas Avathi, another resident, expressed discontentment with the BBMP engineers due to their alleged neglect of the lake. "The lake was filled with rainwater two years ago. There is no flow of rainwater into the lake while other lakes brim with rainwater," said Avathi.

> **"The lake is being maintained properly. I am of the opinion that rainwater is not entering the lake as the drains are choked with silt and debris** – BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer (Lakes)

Demanding BBMP authorities to take measures for the upkeep of the waterbody, Vilasini Krishnan, a resident, said that the BBMP Lakes Department has to direct the contractor assigned for maintenance of the lake to clear hurdles to facilitate rainwater entering the lake during the monsoon. "The lake has not received rainwater for the last one year. I want the authorities concerned to ensure rainwater flows into the lake," said Krishnan.

BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer (Lakes) said that measures were taken to keep all the inlets of the lake free from weeds and silt. "The lake is being maintained properly. I am of the opinion that rainwater is not entering the lake as the drains are choked with silt and debris," the Assistant Executive Engineer said.

However, Srilakshmi, BBMP Executive Engineer (Stormwater Drains), said that the stormwater drains are clean. "I visited the stormwater drain after receiving a complaint from one of the residents. The stormwater drain is clean," the Executive Engineer said. When informed, BBMP Junior Engineer (Gottigere ward), said that he would look into the matter.

State to reject Centre's 10-hour work proposal?

The State Government has decided to reject the Central Government's proposal to increase the daily working hours of employees from 9 to 10 hours. The proposal, sent by the Union Ministry of Labour to all states, suggested the amendment of the Karnataka Shops and Establishments Act, 1961, to allow a 10-hour workday.

Sources in the State Government confirmed that strong opposition from labour unions has prompted the State to stand against the move. A high-level official revealed that the government is inclined to maintain the current structure, citing welfare of workers and existing provisions. Currently, under Karnataka's labour laws, employees are permitted to work 9 hours a day and 48 hours a week. There are already provisions in place to allow for overtime work when required.

Concerns over increased hours

Labour unions have raised serious concerns over the potential of exploitation and the impact on workers' health and well-being if the daily working hours are extended to 10 hours. The proposal from the Centre was recently discussed in a cabinet meeting, where the Chief Minister and senior ministers opposed it, pointing to the backlash from labour organisations and the absence of sufficient justification for the increase of working hours. While the State has not officially communicated its rejection to the Union Government yet, labour department sources say that a formal decision will be conveyed after detailed internal discussions are held and the policy is reviewed thoroughly.

— BMB

Indian Artisans' Haat kicks off tomorrow

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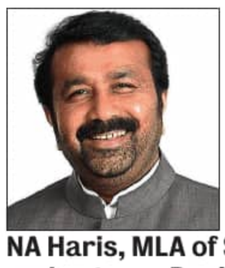
Bengaluru is all set to host a one-of-a-kind celebration of India's rich craft traditions with the Indian Artisans' Haat, a 10-day national-level handicrafts fair curated specially for Bengalureans. Scheduled from August 1 to 10 at the Rangoli Metro Art Centre on MG Road, the event is being organised in collaboration with Vijay Karnataka and Bangalore Mirror, and promises an immersive experience in handlooms, handmade art, and cultural performances.

The event will be inaugurated on August 1 at 5 pm by NA Haris, MLA of Shantinagar, along with actress Ragini Dwivedi, adding glamour to the grand opening.

Conceptualised and executed by Mohammed Ahmed Khan and Nagaraj Hundekar, co-founders of And Events, the Indian Artisans' Haat aims to offer Bengalureans a vibrant platform to experience traditional crafts from across India — all in one place. From Thanjavur paintings and Ikkat sarees to Pattachitra artwork, Kantha embroidery, Kolhapuri footwear, and Pashmina shawls, visitors will find unique, handcrafted items that carry the soul of their region. The Haat will feature 80 to 100 stalls showcasing exquisite products from artisans across states, while also providing space for Karnataka's own craftspeople to shine. It's not just a market — it's a cultural movement, especially significant as it coincides with the Varamahalakshmi festival, offering a chance to shop festive-ready pieces with meaning and history.

To enrich the experience further, each day will host a series of cultural performances, including classical music and dance, folk shows, tabla and flute recitals, and puppet theatre, ensuring there's something for every age and interest.

This event isn't just about shopping — it's about supporting artisans, preserving traditional skills, and taking pride in India's cultural roots. Bengalureans are encouraged to visit the Haat and make the most of this unique opportunity to connect with the country's craft heritage — all while enjoying an evening of vibrant performances and meaningful conversations.



NA Haris, MLA of Shantinagar, and actress Ragini Dwivedi will inaugurate the event on August 1 at 5 pm

'Udayaraga' and 'Sandhyaraga' to return at Cubbon Park

After a gap of nearly five to six years, the much-loved weekend music programmes 'Udayaraga' (morning raga) and 'Sandhyaraga' (evening raga) are set to make a comeback at Cubbon Park. Thanks to renewed interest from the Horticulture Department and support from Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi, the events will be held every Sunday throughout the year. The Department of Kannada and Culture has allocated Rs 15 lakh specifically for the Udayaraga event, with a separate grant for Sandhyaraga. These programmes, previously suspended just before the COVID-19 pandemic, will now resume at the iconic Bandstand of Cubbon Park.

— BMB

Customised scams are designed to trap you

Fraudsters now use search history and online behaviour to design scams, tailoring their traps with alarming accuracy, says cybersecurity advisor

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In an incident highlighting the evolving nature of cybercrime, a Bengaluru resident received a WhatsApp message on July 29 evening, claiming that a movie ticket had been booked at INOX Megaplex, Mall of Asia, for the evening show of 'SU from SO'.

The message included two suspicious links, one supposedly for check-in using a QR code at the theatre entrance, and another to download the e-ticket. However, the resident, who had not booked any movie ticket, immediately realised it was a cyber con.

Cybercriminals are becoming increasingly sophisticated by tailoring scams based on an individual's digital behaviour, especially their search history and algorithms making online frauds more personalised and harder to detect, according to Dr Harsha Thennarasu, Chief Cyber Security Advisor.

Go phishing

Last year, nearly 4.9 per cent of people in Bengaluru reported cases under the phishing and spoofing category. Dr Thennarasu explained that the recent incident is an example of a smishing scam, which involves fraudsters impersonating trusted services like INOX to deceive users with urgent messages about fake movie bookings. These contain malicious links for 'check-in' or 'e-ticket download' to steal data or install malware. The unsolicited nature of the message is a clear sign of phishing fraud. "The recipient didn't book any ticket and therefore shouldn't have received this message, a key indicator of a scam," said Dr Thennarasu.

Dr Thennarasu said that the pattern observed in several recent cases indicated that cybercrime has become far more targeted. Earlier, scam messages seemed to be sent randomly to thousands, hoping a 100 members would fall for them. But now, it's clear that these are calculated efforts.

Dr Thennarasu further explained that cybercriminals know exactly who they want to target and how to do it. "They're using a person's weekend plans, interests, and habits, beliefs, etc, revealed through search history and online behaviour to design personalised scams. By tracking digital footprints, including what people search for, click on, and how they spend time online, fraudsters are able to tailor their traps with alarming accuracy," warned Dr Thennarasu.

Dr Thennarasu pointed out that these messages and links may seem generic at first glance, but they are tailored to exploit the person's specific interests or current needs.

"For example, a person who has recently searched for visa applications might receive a message claiming to be from a travel agency offering express visa services. Similarly, those who browse for medical treatments may get fake offers from health centres or pharmacies," said Dr Thennarasu, adding that these scams are often disguised as legitimate businesses and can trick even tech-savvy individuals.

Insurance fraud

In another recent case which points to growing concerns of misuse of personal data, a victim of cyber fraud had searched for insurance online, following which he started receiving scam calls from people claiming to be from insurance companies. Upon eventually reporting the issue to the SancharSaati Portal, those numbers were subsequently blocked.

> **"Experts advise regular checks on app permissions, avoiding unfamiliar websites, and not clicking on links sent via WhatsApp or SMS from unknown numbers**

"Cybercriminals are using a mix of data analytics and social engineering, AI and machine learning. It's not just about hacking devices anymore, it's about manipulating the human mind," said Dr Thennarasu.

Cybercriminals use temporary files to hide stolen information, run harmful software, or trick users into opening fake files. These files are often deleted quickly, making it hard to trace the crime, helping fraudsters steal data or control a device without the user or security software noticing. To counter this, experts advise regular checks on app permissions, avoiding unfamiliar websites, and not clicking on links sent via WhatsApp or SMS from unknown numbers.

School management booked for using forged documents

The Halasuru Gate Police have registered an FIR against BGS Bloomfield School Chairman and former Congress leader Gurappa Naidu, his wife and trustee Sunita Naidu, and others, for allegedly running the school using forged documents.

The FIR, registered on Tuesday, invokes multiple IPC sections, including 420 (cheating), 465, 468, 471 (forgery), 406 (criminal breach of trust), 120B (criminal conspiracy) and others.

According to the complaint filed by Advocate Sudha Katwa, the accused allegedly fabricated a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Building Completion Certificate and submitted fake documents to secure approvals and affiliations from various government bodies, including the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and even the Karnataka High Court.

Sources said the school management has allegedly created and used forged documents multiple times in the past, with complaints filed in different police stations across the city. **BMB**

Woman injured in accidental gunshot loses kidney

A 32-year-old woman resident of Cox's Town sustained serious injuries after being accidentally shot in the stomach while handling her boyfriend's pistol. The mishap occurred on July 28 on the terrace of Rachel's boyfriend Nikhil's house in Ashirvad Colony near Horamavu, under Hennur police limits.

According to police sources, Nikhil, who owns a licenced gun, was checking the firearm when Rachel took it from him. In an unfortunate turn of events, the gun misfired while in her hands, and the bullet struck her in the stomach.

Nikhil immediately rushed her to a hospital, where doctors were forced to remove her damaged kidney. According to sources, doctors found that one of her kidneys had been severely damaged by the bullet. To save her life, the medical team had to remove the damaged kidney. She is undergoing treatment and is said to be in a stable condition. **BMB**

Alcohol menace, caste discrimination haunt B'luru Rural

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Women and students from Rajaghatta village in Bengaluru Rural district raised pressing concerns over widespread liquor abuse and caste-based discrimination during a Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) grievance redressal meeting held on Saturday.

The meeting, conducted under the 'Mane Manege Police' (Police at your doorstep) initiative by the Bengaluru District Police, brought together officials from the Police, Excise, and Education Departments.

Concerns over liquor sales

A representative of the women of the village informed officials that liquor shops in the area were operating from as early as 6 am until midnight or beyond, in violation of licensing norms. According to the complaint, men in the village were consuming alcohol in the early hours, skipping work, and returning home either aggressive or detached from family responsibilities.

This, residents claimed, was leading to family breakdowns and worsening poverty. It was also alleged that local grocery and vegetable vendors had begun stocking liquor, making it easily accessible throughout the day.

Caste slurs in classrooms

Students present at the meeting reported that they were being subjected to caste-based humiliation in schools, often being referred to by their caste names by peers. Officials were informed that such behaviour was not only tolerated by classmates but often went unchecked by teachers and village elders.

Other issues raised

Beyond liquor abuse and caste discrimination, villagers also drew attention to problems such as poor infrastructure, growing concerns about crimes linked to migrant populations, and a shortage of employment opportunities. Sources noted that not all relevant departments were present at the meeting, but police officials clarified that issues falling outside their jurisdiction would be communicated to the appropriate authorities. They assured villagers that necessary follow-up, including departmental awareness initiatives, would be coordinated as needed.

Officials instructed

According to officials, CK Baba, Superintendent of Police, Bengaluru District, instructed the Excise Department to strictly monitor liquor shop timings as per licensing rules. The department, along with local police, was directed to conduct routine checks to curb illegal sales. Officials further stated that the Excise Department would be responsible for carrying out awareness drives on alcohol-related issues. Addressing the issue of caste discrimination, the Education Department and Panchayat Development Officer were asked to take corrective measures immediately. Authorities emphasised the need for swift action and reiterated that repeated violations would be dealt with stringently. Community-wide sensitisation programs were also recommended to prevent further incidents.

Following the meeting, police teams conducted outreach visits in Dalit colonies, going door to door and pasting stickers with names and contact numbers of police personnel.

Swachh rankings rise, but ground reality stinks

Pedestrians face daily struggles as BBMP neglects a key stretch near National College Metro, where garbage, locked toilets, and misuse of space persist

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PICS: KAUSHIK JN

Dumping ground for debris and old furniture, the spot near National College Metro has now been turned into an open toilet by auto rickshaw drivers

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has invested significant time and resources in raising public awareness about the importance of maintaining cleanliness in the city. Over the years, BBMP has also strived to climb the Swachh Survekshan rankings. While it has improved its position from 126 to 36, the civic body must now intensify efforts to eliminate garbage blackspots across Bengaluru. Sustained action and active citizen participation are key to achieving a higher ranking and a cleaner urban environment.

It is both frustrating and shocking to encounter a perennial blackspot near the National College Namma Metro Station. A heap of rubble lies scattered on the vacant stretch along the National College Grounds compound wall. Despite its visibility, the BBMP has failed to clear the debris and maintain cleanliness in the area. Neither elected representatives, environmentalists, nor BBMP ward engineers have taken responsibility—no complaints have been lodged, nor any steps taken to restore cleanliness at this prominent public spot.

With the area turning into a dumping ground for debris and old furniture, some auto rickshaw drivers—lacking civic sense—have converted it into an open toilet. Shockingly, even a few students loitering around National College Grounds without attending classes misuse the space to relieve themselves. When questioned, one student revealed that although a toilet has been constructed adjacent to the compound wall, it remains locked. "I find the vacant place convenient to attend nature's call," the student admitted, highlighting the negligence of authorities in ensuring access to basic sanitation facilities.

Pedestrians are the worst affected by the blackspots and yellow stains on the footpath along the vacant site. "It's difficult to walk here, especially when auto rickshaw drivers use it as an open toilet. For women, it's even more embarrassing," said Praveen S, a pedestrian. He urged the BBMP to clean the area and unlock the nearby toilet to restore hygiene and dignity to the public space.

Coming down heavily on the BBMP authorities for not beautifying the black spot by clearing debris and waste, Lakshmi N, a pedestrian, said the vacant place has become a destination for dumping waste and to attend nature's call. "It is an important location and hundreds of pedestrians and metro commuters use this footpath. I want the authorities concerned to beautify this perennial blackspot without any delay," she said.

Meanwhile, BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer Krishna Kumar said that he would look into the matter. "No one has complained about the black spot to me. I will visit the spot and take measures to beautify the black spot," said the assistant executive engineer.

However, Chickpet MLA Uday Garudachar has also assured to look into the matter. "I will direct the BBMP engineers to remove waste and debris from the spot and keep it clean," the MLA said.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE No.CAO/CN/BNC/132/2025
Dated 24-07-2025
The undersigned on behalf of the President of India invites E-tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
(1) Penukonda - - Dharmavaram Doubling: Proposed construction of road over bridge (1x42 Composite Girder) + 5x18.71 PSC Girders other connected works at Ch:162115 in lieu of LC No.102 at Ch: 162178 between Makkajipalli to Nagasamudram Station. (2) Yelahanka - Penukonda: Construction of approach roads using RE wall technique for ROB in lieu of LC 71 at Chakarlapalli Yard between Yelahanka - Penukonda section including construction of Limited height Subway (LHS) of size (5.5m x 2.75m). (3) Penukonda - Dharmavaram Doubling: Construction of central drain between Penukonda - Makkajipalli section under for approx. length of 1575m in running traffic conditions (Composite Work) (Tender Ref. No.: PKD-DMM-06-ROB-R).	Rs.30,78,16,066/-

Last date for submission of bids: Upto 15:00 Hrs on 19-08-2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
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Pre-monsoon rains boost K'taka groundwater table

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In June this year, the southwest monsoon remained mostly weak across Karnataka. The state recorded 203 mm of rainfall, only marginally above the normal average of 199 mm for the month.

Despite this, Karnataka has witnessed a significant improvement in groundwater levels, according to the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC). The groundwater table has risen in 199 out of 236 taluks—around 84%—compared to June last year.

Of the 37 taluks that reported a fall in groundwater levels, 24 taluks saw a drop of less than 2 meters below ground level. In six taluks, the decline ranged between 2 and 4 meters, while in seven taluks, the drop exceeded 4 meters.

On the brighter side, 72 taluks showed an improvement in groundwater levels by more than 4 meters. In 63 taluks, the water table rose by 2 to 4 meters, while in another 64 taluks, the rise was up to 2 meters.

In Bengaluru Urban district, two of the nine taluks—Dodaballapur and Nelamangala—witnessed a drop in groundwater levels. The rest either remained stable or improved.

Experts attribute the overall improvement in shallow aquifers to the copious pre-monsoon showers between March and May. A city-based hydrologist explained, "Karnataka received above-average rainfall during the pre-monsoon period this year.

This likely helped recharge groundwater across the state. Good rainfall also means reduced reliance on groundwater for irrigation, which may have limited extraction and helped levels recover."

Bengaluru, in particular, experienced heavy showers, receiving over 300 mm of rainfall in May 2024—the highest cumulative rainfall for the month on record. The previous record was 305.4 mm in May 2023.

According to KSNDMC, groundwater is currently available at depths of less than 10 meters in the majority of Karnataka's taluks, indicating positive recharge in shallow aquifers. However, experts also issued a note of caution. While the KSNDMC report, based on data from the Ground Water Directorate, provides insights into shallow aquifer levels, most water extraction happens from deep aquifers using borewells. They emphasised the need to regularly monitor deep aquifer levels to obtain a comprehensive picture of groundwater sustainability.

Without such monitoring, the current signs of improvement could be misleading, especially as groundwater remains a crucial source for agriculture and urban consumption across the state.

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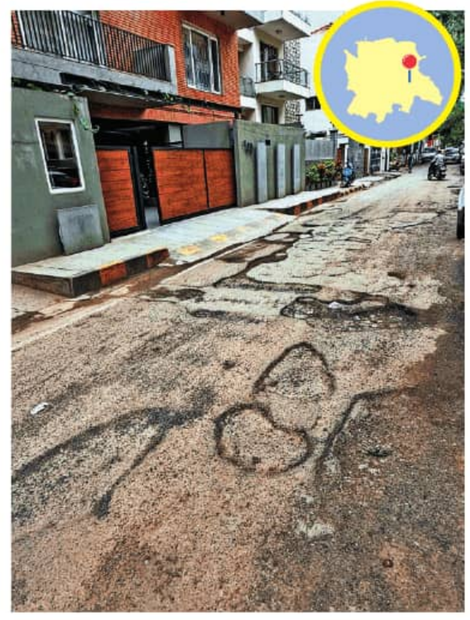
Prompt action

Basaveshwaranagar

Following a Bangalore Mirror report on the abandoned manhole in Basaveshwaranagar, BWSSB swiftly addressed the problem and repaired it within the day.

Pothole peril

Central Business District



A Bangalore Mirror reader highlighted pothole-filled roads in the Central Business District, reinforcing the issues featured in our recent cover story.

Paws for concern: Karnataka ranks 4th in dog bites

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Karnataka ranks 4th in India for the highest number of dog bite cases reported from 2022 to 2025, with the state consistently contributing a significant share to the national tally. Tamil Nadu leads the nation, followed by Maharashtra in second and Uttar Pradesh in third.

According to Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying SP Singh Baghel in Lok Sabha reply, in 2024, Karnataka reported 3,61,494 dog bite cases, accounting for approximately 9.7% of the national total of 37,15,713 cases. The state's dog bite statistics have shown a steady increase over the past few years, with 1,63,356 cases in 2022, 2,32,715 in 2023, and 3,61,494 in 2024. In January 2025 alone, Karnataka reported 39,437 cases. The state's contribution to India's overall dog bite cases has risen from 7.46% in 2022 to 9.7% in 2024. This upward

trend highlights the growing need for enhanced public health measures, including awareness campaigns, stricter animal control, and improved medical response for victims.

Rabies deaths

According to LS data, human rabies cases have been reported consistently from 2022 to 2025, with a total of 3 deaths in 2022, 4 in 2023, and 5 in 2024. The state has witnessed a concerning trend, reflecting the continuing threat of rabies despite efforts to control it. In 2025, however, Karnataka reported no rabies-related deaths as of January. The state accounted for a significant portion of India's human rabies cases during this period.

Reacting to this, Smitha D, a canine care specialist, said, "As a dog lover, I believe that preventing rabies starts with responsible pet ownership and community awareness. We must ensure that our furry friends are vaccinated, strays are cared for, and people are educated on the importance of immediate medical care after a dog bite. It's our duty to protect both animals and humans, creating a safer environment for everyone."

Biodiversity Committee left in wild again

Environment panel remains inactive as BBMP delays meetings and follow-up action; city's ecological register remains untouched since 2010, raising concerns over unchecked growth

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After it was revived in 2023 for the second time since its inception in 2009, Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC) is again waiting for Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike to convene a meeting.

BMC members say that while they have been trying to get the work on documenting Bengaluru's biodiversity started, the response from authorities has been lukewarm.

While BMC is supposed to meet every three months, the committee has met only twice since November 2023.

"We have been trying to get the work started, but efforts from officials have been far and in between. While BMC understands the urgency to conduct a biodiversity survey of Bengaluru and update the city's biodiversity register immediately, not much has moved on the ground. There is no clarity even on budget allocation," said Vijay Nishant, a member of Bengaluru's BMC.

Bengaluru got its first BMC in 2009, and it created the city's first-ever People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) in 2010. However, 16 years have passed, but Bengaluru's PBR has not been updated, leading to unsustainable development activities.

Bengaluru's PBR, created in 2010, hasn't been updated in 16 years, fueling unsustainable development

The committee was first revived in 2019, but got tangled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

As per the Biological Biodiversity Act (BDA) 2002, a BMC must be constituted by every local self-governing institution in rural and urban areas. The committee should then create a PBR, a repository of traditional knowledge of local biological resources. The idea behind PBR is to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of local biological resources while securing equitable sharing of benefits that come from these resources.

As per the Act, BBMP is responsible for calling for the BMC meeting every three months.

The second and last meeting of BMC was held in April. In the meeting, members, along with the BMC nodal officer, decided to take up sessions in city schools to spread awareness on biodiversity and its conservation. Members also decided to inspect the lakes in Rajarajeshwari Nagar for their betterment.

"The committee also discussed actions to be taken to develop the "Gunduthopu" near Manyata Tech Park. It was decided to identify lakes across Bengaluru and take action to cultivate and conserve biological resources around them. However, none of these activities could be moved further," said a source from the BBMP Forest Department.

According to Akshay Heblikar, founder of Eco Watch and another member of Bengaluru's BMC, the nodal officer has been constantly changing, leading to a lack of focus and progress.

"Multiple DCFs, who also serve as BMC's nodal officers, have been transferred since 2019. By the time we brief a nodal officer and pick up momentum, they are transferred. During the tenure, they are occupied with many other responsibilities, and updating PBR is put on the back burner. There should be one person in charge of the tree committee and the BMC. Other forest department-related responsibilities should be managed by another person," says Heblikar.

Notably, in May 2024, BMC submitted a zone-wise budget plan of Rs 118.9 lakh to document Bengaluru's biodiversity.

The financial plan encompassed various activities including formation of zone-wise BMCs, public sensitisation, surveys and possible management strategies, training of members in identifying and collecting data on biological resources and traditional knowledge, analysis and validation of data in consultation with a technical support group, preparation of the People's Biodiversity Register (PBR), and computerisation of information and resources.

However, the Urban Development Department rejected the draft budget and asked BBMP to start the process afresh.

"We are not sure if the budget needs revision due to a lack of communication. It appears that the project is not a priority for the civic agency. However, it is important to document the existing biodiversity of the city to understand if the ongoing or future developments are sustainable," added Heblikar.

Chicken kebabs tainted with food colours

Despite a ban on the use of synthetic food colours in food preparation, a recent inspection by the Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA) revealed the use of such colours in chicken kebabs served at the Empire Restaurant in Bengaluru. FSDA officials collected and tested 23,623 samples from various Empire outlets across the city. Several samples were found to contain prohibited artificial colouring agents, rendering them unsafe for consumption.

A notice has been issued by the FSDA's North Zone Officer to the Empire outlet near Anand Rao Circle, stating that samples collected on June 27 tested positive for synthetic colours during laboratory analysis. The restaurant has been given the option to request a second test at the CFTRI lab in Mysuru within 30 days at their own cost. Of the 39 kebab samples tested across the state, 8 were found to contain artificial colours, including seven with sunset yellow and one with both sunset yellow and carmoisine, according to department sources. Failure to respond will lead to legal action.

–BMB

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India sets 2028 launch for indigenous Bharatiya Antariksha station module

Bharatiya Antariksha Station to mark India's bold leap into autonomous space presence with a full station targeted by 2035

Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

India's ambitious space programme is set to take a giant leap with the launch of the first module of the Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS) (planned modular space station) by 2028, with the full five-module station expected to be completed by 2035. This was confirmed by Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, during a recent update in Parliament.

The government has approved the development and launch of the first module, setting the stage for India's entry into the exclusive club of nations capable of building and maintaining an independent space station. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has already kick-started technical preparations for the mission. Preliminary configuration and accommodation studies for various onboard systems have been completed, and final configurations for critical systems are currently being finalised. Detailed engineering work and overall system integration are also underway. ISRO is simultaneously working on identifying hardware specifications and defining interface requirements vital for the module's construction.

To ensure timely progress, a dedicated budget of ₹720 crore has been allocated for the development of the first BAS module. Procurement of long lead-time components has begun to avoid delays and ensure that the necessary parts are available well in advance of construction and assembly timelines. This financial backing represents a decisive transition from planning to execution.

Detailed configuration and hardware integration underway as India prepares for independent space station milestone

> **"First module approval secured, setting stage for India's independent space station capabilities by 2028** – Dr Jitendra Singh

A notable aspect of the BAS initiative is India's decision to pursue the project independently. At present, there are no plans to collaborate with foreign space agencies or organisations. This self-reliant approach is in line with the country's broader vision of achieving strategic autonomy in space technology and exploration.

Technologically, the project aims to achieve several complex milestones. These include the development of systems for autonomous rendezvous and docking, advanced robotics, in-orbit refuelling, intra-vehicular activity suits, and specialised racks for conducting experiments in microgravity. These systems will be crucial to supporting long-duration missions and enabling a broad range of orbital research.

The BAS will also serve as a research platform, focusing on experiments in life sciences, pharmaceuticals, material science, and microgravity-based manufacturing. Scientists expect that these studies will yield breakthroughs with practical applications on Earth and in future space missions.

Following the successes of missions such as Chandrayaan and the upcoming Gaganyaan crewed flight, the BAS project signals a new era for India's space aspirations. The launch of the first module in 2028 will mark a significant step toward establishing a sustained human presence in space, cementing India's position as a leading spacefaring nation with independent orbital capabilities.

Education Dept taps CSR funds for govt school revival

In a landmark initiative to upgrade infrastructure in government schools, the Karnataka Education Department has launched a CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) campaign aimed at mobilising Rs 300 crore through private sector contributions. Following discussions with multiple companies, two major firms have already pledged Rs 250 crore, including support for schools in districts like Koppal and Bengaluru Rural. Another company has come forward to adopt 15 schools, with development plans underway for 114 schools.

Under the 'Namma Shaale, Nanna Koduge' (My School, My Contribution) programme, the state aims to revamp over 22,000 schools requiring urgent repairs out of a total 46,757 government schools—housing nearly 42 lakh students. The project, first announced by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, encourages companies and citizens to contribute financially. A dedicated website has been launched for transparency and ease of participation. The government has allowed recognition of donors by naming the adopted school projects after individuals or firms. The Education Department plans to use CSR and public funds to improve classrooms, computer labs, furniture, and basic facilities in the most neglected schools. — BMB

Hebbal flyover ramp to open soon

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday hinted at the possibility of the much-awaited new ramp of the Hebbal flyover opening on August 15, while outlining key infrastructure developments planned ahead of Independence Day. "We are considering inaugurating the new section of the Hebbal flyover, along with the redeveloped Shivananda Circle and a multi-storey parking facility near Gandhi Bazaar, before August 15," Shivakumar told reporters following a review meeting with Greater Bengaluru Authority officials.

These projects are part of the government's push to ease traffic congestion and enhance civic amenities across Bengaluru's high-density zones. If completed in time, the Hebbal ramp opening could provide much-needed relief to commuters navigating one of the city's most notorious bottlenecks. — BMB

BESCOM to withdraw ATP bill payment service

The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) has announced that the Any Time Payment (ATP) machine service for electricity bill payments will be discontinued starting August 1, 2025. In its official release, BESCOM clarified that consumers can continue to pay their bills through various alternative channels. These include cash counters at BESCOM sub-divisional offices, Bangalore One and Karnataka One centres, as well as digital platforms such as the BESCOM website and the BESCOM Mithra mobile app. Additionally, bill payments can be made via Spot Billing Devices, Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT), Electronic Clearing Service (ECS), and Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-enabled applications including Google Pay, PhonePe, Paytm, and BHIM. The move comes as part of BESCOM's broader effort to encourage digital transactions and streamline bill payment processes. — BMB

New rice variety promises double yield, diabetic-friendly health boost

Rice has long been a staple food across southern India, deeply woven into the region's cultural and culinary traditions. However, with rising awareness of diabetes and health concerns, many are switching to alternative cereals. But now, scientists at the Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR), Hyderabad, are working on a game-changing rice variety—one that could benefit both farmers and diabetic patients.

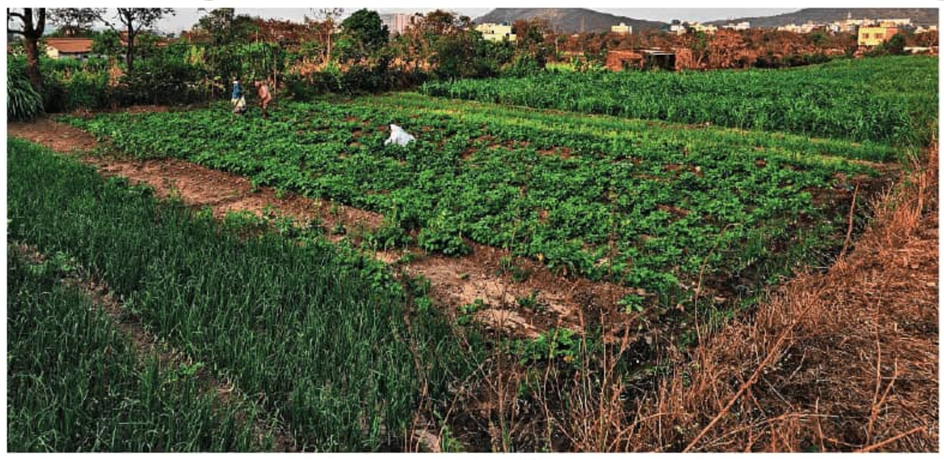
The new variety under development promises double the yield of current strains while featuring significantly lower glucose content, making it safer for diabetics. Still in the research phase, the project is expected to take another two years before reaching the market.

Currently, most rice varieties yield between 3 to 5 tonnes per acre. But this new strain could potentially produce up to 9 to 10 tonnes per acre—nearly double the output. Along with high productivity, the rice will have reduced glycemic properties, a critical benefit for those managing diabetes.

What makes this rice special

Promising traits of the upcoming IIRR variety

- Each plant can bear around 1,000 grains
- Expected yield: 9–10 tonnes per acre
- Naturally resistant to pests
- Adaptable to varied climates and soil types
- Lower in glucose-spiking starch
- Suitable for quality seed production



Rice revolution underway—scientists target 1,000 grains per plant, offering new hope for diabetic-friendly, high-yield harvests in fields like these

For many, rice is a dietary challenge due to its high glycemic index. Some opt for expensive alternatives like Rajamudi rice, which can cost up to ₹100 per kg. The new variety aims to bridge this gap by being both nutritious and affordable.

Developed by cross-breeding traditional rice strains, the upcoming variant is expected to offer enhanced nutritional value and greater resilience. IIRR scientists say the goal is to combine farmer-centric outcomes with public health priorities.

While popular varieties like DRR Dhan-75 and DRR Dhan-76 currently yield 3.5 to 4.5 tonnes per acre and carry around 450–500 grains per plant, the new breed is being designed to yield over 1,000 grains per plant.

"This could truly be a breakthrough not just for agriculture, but for public health," said a senior scientist involved in the project. Once field trials are complete, the rice will be formally named and prepared for commercial release. For a country where rice continues to be the heart of every meal, this innovation could mean a healthier future without giving up a cherished tradition. — BMB

Fake certificates, real loans: Traders under investigation

Over 250 shop owners face investigation for using forged certificates to secure loans; Labour dept uncover collusion between auditors and department staff

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The Police have launched a statewide crackdown on shops and commercial establishments accused of forging labour registration certificates using the government's e-Karmika software. More than 250 shop owners have been served notices after it was discovered that fake certificates were being used to secure bank loans worth up to ₹1.5 crore.

This development comes just days after the controversy over GST notices to small traders was resolved, adding to the anxiety among the state's trading community.

IN FOCUS
GST TROUBLE BREWS

Labour Department uncovered the racket after complaints about e-Karmika irregularities. Inspections revealed tampered shop registration details

How fraud was uncovered

The Labour Department first unearthed the racket in August 2024 following complaints about irregularities on the e-Karmika portal. During inspections, officials found that shop registration details, including license validity and the age of the establishment, were being illegally altered by auditors in collusion with certain department staff.

"By manipulating the software, shops that were only two or three years old appeared as though they had been operating for over five years, making them eligible for large bank loans," a senior police officer said.

The forged certificates carried authentic registration numbers and system-verified details, making it difficult for banks to identify discrepancies during routine online checks.

The scam spans a wide range of small businesses, including juice centres, chicken stalls, petrol stations, and other retail establishments. Loans obtained using these fake certificates reportedly range from ₹30 lakh to ₹1.5 crore.

FIR registered, notices served

Following these revelations, the Labour Commissioner ordered that FIRs be registered against the shop owners involved in the fraud. Cases have been filed at multiple police stations, including Siddapur in Bengaluru, and the police have issued notices to more than 250 shop owners. Investigations are ongoing.

In their notices, police have directed shop owners to appear for questioning when summoned, submit all documents related to shop registration and bank loans, avoid influencing witnesses or tampering with evidence, and assist investigators in identifying other co-accused involved in the racket. Authorities have warned that failure to comply with these instructions will result in arrests.

The crackdown has caused unease among small traders, with many fearing they may be unfairly targeted. "Even genuine shop owners are anxious because the notices are broad-based," said one trader, requesting anonymity.

Misusing e-Karmika

The Labour Department had received complaints about the misuse of the e-Karmika software. Upon inspection, it was found that the registration certificates had been illegally modified. The Labour Department had submitted a report to the Labour Commissioner on August 7, 2024.

AROUNDTHEWORLD

Tsunami threat eases after massive quake

A tsunami sent waves into Russia, Japan, Hawaii and the West Coast of the United States after an 8.8 magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of the Russian Far East early Wednesday.

The quake was one of the biggest temblors ever recorded. Several people were injured, but none seriously, and no major damage has been reported so far.

The danger already appeared to be lessening in some places, with authorities in

U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem said the threat of a major tsunami hitting the United States "has passed completely."

Noem, speaking in Chile where she is attending meetings with officials, told reporters in the capital, Santiago: "We're in really good shape right now. We were fully deployed and ready to respond if necessary, but grateful that we didn't have to deal with the situation that this could have been."

Chile has upgraded its tsunami warning to its highest level. The red alert covers most of its 6,400-kilometre (4,000-mile) Pacific coastline, from Arica and Parinacota near its northern border to Magallanes in the far south. The Education Ministry cancelled classes.

UN expert sanctioned over Israel criticism

An independent UN investigator and outspoken critic of Israel's policies in Gaza says that the sanctions recently imposed on her by the Trump administration will have serious impacts on her life and work.

Francesca Albanese, the UN special rapporteur for the West Bank and Gaza, is a member of a group of experts chosen by the 47-member UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

She is tasked with probing human rights abuses in the Palestinian territories and has been vocal about what she has described as the "genocide" by Israel against Palestinians in Gaza.

Both Israel and the United States, which provide military support to their close ally, have strongly denied that accusation.

Washington has decried what it called a "campaign of political and economic warfare" against the US and Israel, and earlier this month imposed sanctions on Albanese, following an unsuccessful US pressure campaign to force the international body to remove her from her post.

"It's very serious to be on the list of the people sanctioned by the US," Albanese told on Tuesday, adding that individuals sanctioned by the US cannot have financial interactions or credit cards with any American bank.

INBRIEF

SIT chief chosen amid burial probe

Even as the high-profile Dharmasthala mass burial case investigation continues, Special Investigation Team (SIT) chief Pranab Mohanty has been empanelled by the Union Government following the Cabinet meeting. The Karnataka DGP of Internal Security is among the 35 IPS officers shortlisted by the Cabinet Committee on Appointments for senior positions in central agencies such as the CBI and NIA.

He is the only officer from Karnataka to be empanelled.

Mohanty currently leads the SIT probing allegations that multiple bodies were secretly buried in Dharmasthala. So far, three of the eight spots identified by an informant have been excavated, with searches ongoing at the remaining sites. Mohanty also visited one of the burial locations in Dharmasthala on Tuesday. Home Minister Dr G Parameshwar stating, "If Pranab Mohanty joins the central service, we will appoint another officer to lead the SIT. We will also assess whether he can continue with the investigation post-transfer." **BMB**

Court rejects appeal over 180-day limit

The High Court of Karnataka has declined to hear a State government appeal filed after 381 days, citing the strict 180-day limitation under the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

"...the framers of legislation have made a provision wherein there is a total bar for entertaining the appeal after 180 days. Therefore, given the statutory bar, the delay of 381 days in filing the appeal cannot be condoned," the court said.

Justice V Srishananda issued this ruling whilst dismissing the State government's appeal against a September 7, 2023, sessions court verdict from Yadgiri district. The lower court had acquitted six individuals charged with publicly insulting an SC community member in 2014.

The State Public Prosecutor contended that denying appeal rights on technical grounds would be severe and deny substantial justice to complainants due to the 180-day limitation. The court noted that Section 14-A(2) of the 1989 Act allows 90 days for filing High Court appeals against trial court judgements. The High Court may condone delays beyond 90 days if satisfied with the appellant's reasons for late filing. **BMB**

INTHECITY

Hackers drain ₹378 cr from tech firm

Cyber fraudsters stole ₹378 crore from Bengaluru-based cryptocurrency firm Neblio Technologies Pvt. Ltd., in one of Karnataka's biggest cybercrime cases. The case has been registered at the Whitefield Cyber Crime Police Station.

According to the complaint filed on July 22 by Hardeep Singh, Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs at Nebilo Technologies, the cyberattack on the company happened in two stages on July 19. In the early hours, around 2.37 am, someone gained unauthorised access to Nebilo Technologies' digital wallet. They transferred a small amount of cryptocurrency (USDT) to an unknown wallet, possibly to test if the system could be breached without being noticed. Later that same morning, at around 9.40 am, the hackers managed to break into the company's server again. This time, they carried out a major theft by transferring a huge amount of cryptocurrency worth USD 44 million, which is approximately ₹378 crore, from the company's wallet to several unknown crypto accounts.

Veteran director hit by X impersonation

A fake X (formerly Twitter) account impersonating Kannada film director and Rajyotsava awardee Dr S Narayan allegedly spread pornographic and defamatory content in his name, prompting him to file a formal complaint with the commissioner.

The fake account, operating under the handle @Snarayanofficia, reportedly posted obscene content, derogatory comments about prominent actors, and shared controversial opinions on recent films, including "EKKA." According to Narayan, the impersonation came to light on Tuesday after a friend alerted him to the offensive posts being circulated under his name.

In his complaint, Narayan detailed how the impersonation has not only damaged his reputation built over three decades in the Kannada film industry but also strained his relationships with fellow artists. "It has caused immense mental trauma," he stated.

Having directed films featuring legends like Dr Rajkumar, Dr Vishnuvardhan, and Dr Shivarajkumar, Narayan urged his contributions to cinema, eye donation awareness, and humanitarian aid. He urged the police to take immediate legal action.

Experts worry substances circulating among students

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

During our study on drug use in students, we have also come across student drug peddlers, mostly in Bengaluru, targeting this community. We have evidence that night-out parties are being conducted by school students without the knowledge of parents, and such substances are available," said D Shashikumar, general secretary, Association of Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS).

Experts say the police, narcotics, and health departments need to pull up their socks and keep a tab on substance abuse through multiple channels.

"These items are also available online, and thus it is important to keep a vigil. We have also come across substances filled inside candies and chocolates, wrapped in colorful packaging to attract school children. We have raised these concerns with the Police department, but rarely are these complaints taken seriously," added Shashikumar.

The details of the seizures and arrests made by Drug Law Enforcement Agencies across the country show that air routes have been identified as the major trafficking routes for such smuggling. There have been incidents where international couriers and parcels containing Hydroponic Ganja have been booked from Thailand and subsequently seized by drug law enforcement agencies in India.

The Indian Government has raised the issues with the authorities in Thailand and also flagged the issue in a bilateral meeting held in May in Thailand, as the modus operandi revealed the involvement of human carriers traveling on flights originating from Thailand, as well as the use of courier parcels.

Service providers make a quick buck in guise of GST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Not stopping there, the officer sent legal notices to all three addresses listed by the company on its website and in project documents. Shockingly, all were returned with remarks stating "no such person at the address". It then became evident to the victim that he had been scammed.

Significance of the GST invoice

A GST invoice is a tax-detailed bill that registered businesses are legally required to issue. In sectors like interior design, it ensures compliance, transparency, and enables customers to claim input tax credit. It also helps prevent fraud and builds trust.

However, there have been several cases where GST invoices were presented but did not match the corresponding purchase orders. During cross-examinations, the individuals involved have either lied or demonstrated a complete lack of understanding about GST invoices.

Several recent cases have revealed a disturbing pattern wherein GST invoices produced by service providers do not match the corresponding purchase orders. During cross-examinations, individuals involved have either given false testimony or exhibited a complete lack of understanding of GST regulations, indicating wilful misrepresentation or gross negligence.

In the present matter, there is a glaring instance of service deficiency and unfair trade practice. Although three notices were duly issued, one to the firm and two to the alleged proprietors, the postal authorities returned them, citing that no such individuals exist at the given addresses. This raises serious questions about the legitimacy of the business entity and the due diligence of the authorities.

Alarmingly, a majority of such fraudulent practices are being uncovered in the service sector, where individuals collect payments from clients under the pretense of GST and other statutory taxes, but fail to remit the same to the government. This not only constitutes cheating and misappropriation but also results in substantial loss to the public exchequer.

"In such situations, the consumer pays GST in good faith, assuming compliance with the law. However, when that amount is never deposited with the Department, it amounts to outright fraud and a direct loss to the GST revenue system," explains advocate Raghavendra Sanjeevarao, a High Court lawyer representing the aggrieved consumers.

The firm involved, Nilay Design Studio, operating through the websites www.nilaydesignstudio.com and www.nilayinteriors.com, is currently under investigation for possible GST and income tax violations. Its registered GST number and bank account details have been forwarded to enforcement authorities for further action.

Unreported cases, tax leakages

Officials from the GST department revealed that many such cases often go unreported, particularly in service sectors like interior design, where customers rarely verify or follow up on tax invoices. This negligence leads to significant tax leakage and exposes genuine homebuyers to risks during future income tax assessments, especially if they cannot produce valid GST invoices for high-value home renovation expenses.

The Bengaluru office of the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) has acknowledged the formal complaint and stated that the matter is being escalated to officials in Telangana, where the firm is registered. A separate complaint has also been filed with the Principal Director of Income Tax (Investigation), Bengaluru. Authorities acknowledged that such incidents reflect a larger systemic issue, most consumers remain unaware that GST invoices are mandatory and legally enforceable under Indian tax law.

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CHANGE OF NAME

WE, Varun Gupta & Arpita Agrawal, parents of Aayansh Gupta, R/o E 408, Candeur Landmark SH35, near Gunjur Bus Stop, Gunjur, Bengaluru - 560087, have changed our son's name from AAYANSH GUPTA to AAYANSH AGRAWAL, vide affidavit dated 29.07.2025, sworn before notary S. Subashini, Bengaluru.

I, Prakasha Agasarakone Manjappa Nayaka s/o Manja - ppa Nayaka R/o Agasarakone, Balehalli Village, Agumbe, Thirthahalli, Shivamogga, 577411, KA, have changed my name to Prakash Agasarakone Manjappa Nayaka.

I, SEEMA FARHEEN INAYATHULLAH, W/o Mohammed Nasrullah A, R/o No.26, Ratan Singh Rd, Fraser Town, Bangalore-560005, declare that SEEMA FARHEEN and SEEMA FARHEEN INAYATHULLAH are one and the same. For all official and legal purposes.

I, SNEHA RAO. R/at. Souhardha, 2032/79, Sir M Vishwesharaiah Layout, 5th Block, Ullal Main Road, Ullalu, Bengaluru - 560110. Have changed to SNEHA SHRINIVAS RAO vide Afdt Dtd 30.07.2025 Sworn before Notary: Devaraja E.

I, BINU CHERIAN residing at No 73, 2nd Cross, 2nd Main Road, Heerthi Layout, Kammanahalli Main Road, Bengaluru-560084. I have changed my name to BINU. Vide affidavit dated 28/07/2025 sworn before notary. T V Bhadravijaya Bengaluru

I, Chandranna S/o Korecamp Ramappa R/o #204/B, 6th A Main, 27th Cross, 3rd Block Jayanagar, B'luru 560011 have changed my name to Chandranna.C.R for all purposes

I, Shobha Harish W/o Kempanna Harish R/o No 7/1, 3Rd Cross, 10Th C Main, 1st Block Jayanagar B'lore-560011 have changed my name to Shobha Krishnamurthy for all purposes.

I, KAVITHA residing at Kanasu Nilaya, No 12,RKP Extn, 11th Main, 13th A Cross, Nisarga L/T, Harapanahalli, Jigani, Bengaluru Rural-560083. I have changed my name to KAVITHA B. Vide affidavit dated 28/07/2025 sworn before notary. T V Bhadravijaya Bengaluru

I, Ananya Basu S/o Ashok Kumar Basu R/o A-601, Vaishnavi Nakshatra Appartment Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore 560022 have changed my name to Ananya Ashok Basu for all purposes

I Saragadum Varalaxmi D/O, Pentakota Shakuntala R/o Gb, Block-a, Thirumala Blossoms, Idbi Layout, Gottigere, Bengaluru -560083 have changed my name to Sargadam Varalakshmi .

I,MOHAMMED Muhsin Mujeebur S/o Mujeebur Rahiman R/o #3,4th Main,2nd Cross link Road madivala B'lore-560068 have changed my name to Mohammed Muhsin.

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Contact Person : Prof. Mithun D J
Mob: 9844284240 Ph: 08042540300
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HEALTH TIP: Pistachios are rich in antioxidants like lutein and zeaxanthin, which protect your eyes

They also help lower LDL (bad cholesterol) and support gut health due to their high fibre content

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FRUITY QUESTION

Should I limit how much fruit my child eats because it contains sugar?

Parents are often told fruit is "bad" because it contains sugar, prompting concerns about how much fruit they should allow their child to eat.

This message has been fuelled by the "sugar-free" movement, which demonises sugar with claims it's fattening and causes diabetes. The movement promotes arbitrary lists of foods to avoid, which often include kids' favourites such as bananas and berries.

But like many claims made by the diet industry, this one isn't backed by evidence.

Naturally occurring versus added sugars

Sugar itself isn't inherently harmful, but the type of sugar kids eat can be.

The good news is whole fruits contain naturally occurring sugars that are healthy and provide kids with energy. Whole fruits are packed with vitamins and minerals needed for good health. This includes vitamins A, C, E, magnesium, zinc and folic acid. All fruits are suitable – bananas, berries, mandarins, apples and mangoes, to name just a few.

The insoluble fibre in fruit skins also helps kids stay regular, and the soluble fibre in fruit flesh helps keep their cholesterol in a healthy range, absorbing "bad" cholesterol to reduce their long-term risk of stroke and heart disease.

Added sugars – which add calories but no nutritional value to kids' diets – are the "bad" sugars and the ones to avoid. They're found in processed and ultra-processed foods kids crave, such as lollies, chocolates, cakes and soft drinks.

Added sugars are often added to seemingly healthy packaged foods, such as muesli bars. They're also hidden under 60-plus different names in ingredient lists, making them hard to spot.

> **The good news is whole fruits contain naturally occurring sugars that are healthy and provide kids with energy. Whole fruits are packed with vitamins and minerals**

Sugar, weight and diabetes risk

There's no evidence backing claims that sugar directly causes diabetes.

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease that can't be prevented or cured and has no connection to sugar consumption. Type 2 diabetes is typically caused when we carry excess body weight, which stops the body from working efficiently, not sugar intake.

However, a diet high in added sugars – found in many processed, ultra-processed foods (for example, sweet and savoury packaged snacks) – can mean kids consume excess calories and gain unnecessary weight, which may increase their chance of developing type 2 diabetes as they get older.

On the other hand, research shows that kids who eat more fruit have less abdominal fat.

Research also shows fruit can reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes, with one study finding kids who ate 1.5 servings of fruit daily had a 36% lower risk of developing the disease.

Nutritional deficiencies

A diet high in added sugars can also result in nutritional deficiencies.

Many processed foods offer low-to-no nutrition, which is why dietary guidelines recommend limiting them.

Kids filling up on these foods are less likely to eat vegetables, fruits, whole grains and lean meats, producing a diet lacking in fibre and other key nutrients needed for growth and development.

But these "discretionary foods" make up one-third of Aussie kids' daily energy intake.

My advice? Give kids fruit in abundance

There's no need to limit how much whole fruit kids eat – it's nutritious, filling and can protect their health. It's also going to fill them up and reduce their desire to scream out for the processed, packet food that is low in nutrition, and calorie-rich.

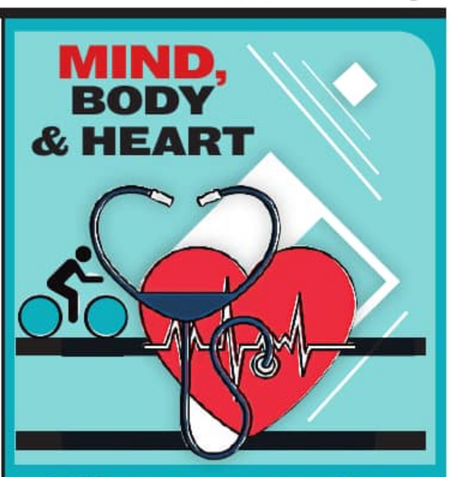
Just go easy on juiced and dried fruits because juicing leaves the goodness (the fibre) behind in the juicer, and drying strips fruits of their water content, making them easy to overconsume.

The nutritional guidelines recommend just two serves of fruit a day for those nine years of age and older, 1.5 serves from 4-8, one serve from 2–3, and half a serve from 1–2 years. But these guidelines are dated and need to be changed.

We do need to reduce kids' sugar consumption. But this needs to be achieved by reducing their intake of processed foods that contain added sugars, rather than fruit.

Added sugars aren't always easy to spot, so we should focus on reducing kids' consumption of processed and packet foods and teaching them to rely on fruit – "nature's treats" – as a way to keep unhealthy sugars out of their diets.

(By Nick Fuller, University of Sydney, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Sleep divorce

Enhanced sleep
Sleep divorce, the practice of sleeping apart from one's partner, has gained attention as a means to enhance sleep quality.

Improved sleep
The elimination of disturbances such as snoring, tossing and turning, as well as the accommodation of incompatible sleep preferences, allows individuals to achieve a more profound and restful sleep experience.

Customised Spaces
The ability to tailor sleep environments to individual preferences from controlling room temperature to selecting the ideal mattress firmness, managing lighting conditions, and minimising noise levels, individuals can create a personalised sleep sanctuary. This customization fosters better sleep hygiene, resulting in overall improved rest and enhanced energy levels.

Addressing Hindrances
Issues such as snoring, sleep apnea, and restless leg syndrome can be directly tackled when partners opt for separate sleeping arrangements. This not only allows individuals to seek necessary medical assistance but also ensures that remedies can be explored without negatively impacting sleep or causing resentment between partners.

Overall Well-Being
Recognizing the crucial role of quality sleep in personal well-being, sleep divorce enables individuals to prioritise their specific sleep needs. This prioritisation leads to improved mood and heightened cognitive function, contributing to an sense of balance in life.

Healthy Relationship
By directly addressing sleep-related challenges, both partners experience an enhanced emotional connection. This in turn leads to reduced conflicts and increased harmony. **–Femina**

MIRRORLIGHTS

Climate change could worsen risk of diarrhoea among children in Asia: Study

Climate change could worsen the risk of diarrhoea -- a leading cause of death among children aged under five -- across south and southeast Asia, including India, endangering the health of millions of children, according to a study.

Researchers from Australia, including those from Flinders University, analysed data of more than three million children, taken from national surveys of eight Asian countries, such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

Prevalence of diarrhoea was found to be about 8 per cent among India's under-fives. The disease is marked by passing loose, watery stools occurring more often than normal. Dehydration, malnutrition and an impaired immunity are among its risk factors.

The findings, published in the journal Environmental Research, also highlight temperature extremes and declining rainfall (in a year's wettest month) as the two main climate-associated factors driving a higher risk of diarrhoea among children.

A wider range of yearly temperatures -- 30 to 40 degrees Celsius -- was related with a 39 per cent increase in chances of diarrhoea among children, while less-than-usual rainfall in the wettest month (under 600 millimetres) increased the risk by about 30 per cent.

Further, children of mothers with less than eight years of schooling were found to face an 18 per cent higher risk of diarrhoea, lead researcher Syeda Hira Fatima from Flinders University said.

"This makes investing in maternal education one of the most powerful and scalable climate-adaptation strategies -- not only to improve child health, but also to address broader challenges like overcrowding and poor hygiene," Fatima said. "Education empowers mothers to act early when their children fall ill, which can save lives," the lead researcher said and added that its role in climate-health policies is central, especially in the world's densely populated, high-risk regions. **–PTI**

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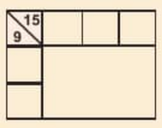
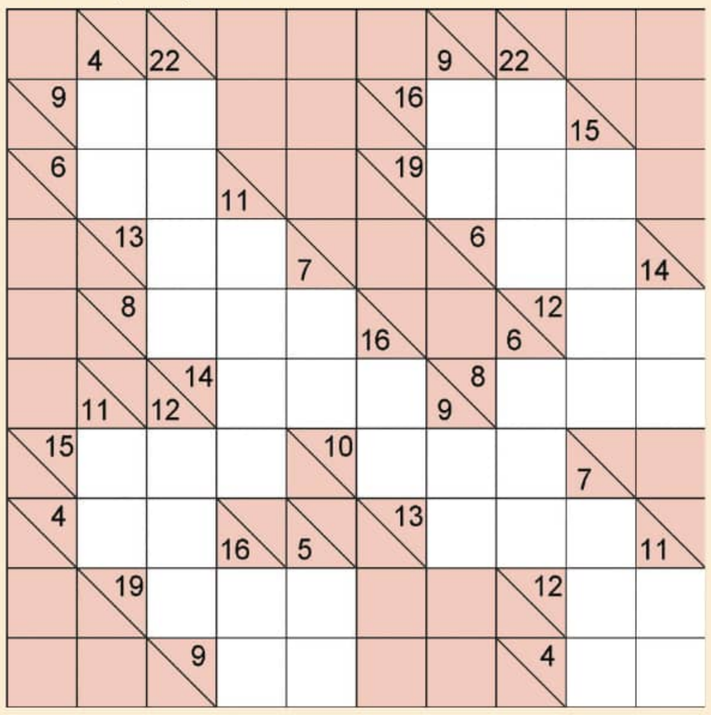
Kakuro

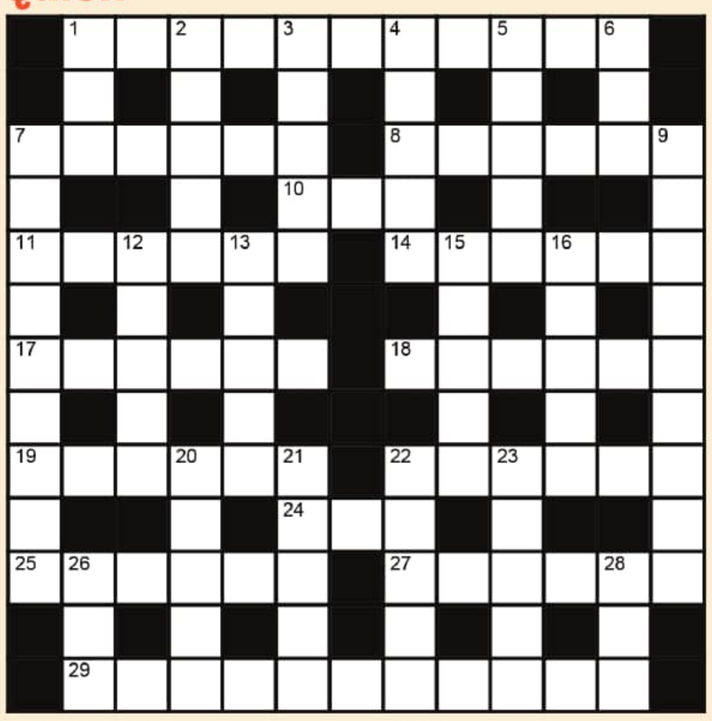
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Enfeebled or weakened (11)
7 Colouring stick (6)
8 California resort (6)
10 Chatter (3)
11 A little rounded lump or swelling (6)
14 Waistbands (6)
17 Hinder (6)
18 Affectedly elegant in speech or bearing (2-2-2)
19 Taking or rent or lease (6)
22 Spatter with water (6)
24 Constellation next to Scorpius (3)
25 More insane or more angry? (6)
27 Yearned for (6)
29 Placing close together, putting side by side (11)

DOWN

1 Black beetle (3)
2 Marshy tributary (5)
3 Drive a weapon violently in some direction (5)
4 Burial places (5)
5 Prepares land by plowing (5)
6 Confer knighthood (3)
7 Road that is also known as Sampangi Ramaswamy Temple Road (9)
9 Unharmed and intact (9)
12 One who uses drugs–""roped"" anagram?" (5)
13 Did an usher's job (3,2)
15 In short, a unit of electric current (5)
16 Israeli port (5)
20 Book reference (5)
21 Irish policeman (5)
22 Volley of shots (5)
23 Hawaiian veranda–"a nail" anagram? (5)
26 RK's Kal __ Aur Kal (3)
28 Unit of energy (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS T

KTKSL OSKXRQS WXDVGEMML KHWKSDKVOKB RJK OJXBI YKRZKKV JDB DVVKS TD-BDQV XVC DRB EMRDIXRK KHWSKBBDQV.

Linemaro

I could flirt with you, but I'd rather allure you with my awkwardness

Mindchow

Take risks in your life. If you win, you can lead; if you lose, you can guide

Joke of the day

Think of a number between 0 and 20. Add 32 to it. Multiply by 2. Subtract 1. Now close your eyes. It's dark, isn't it

Loop

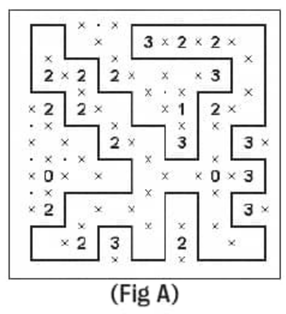
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

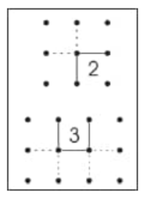
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

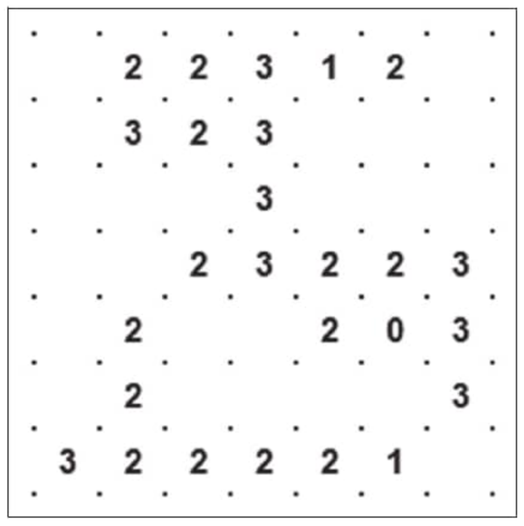
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



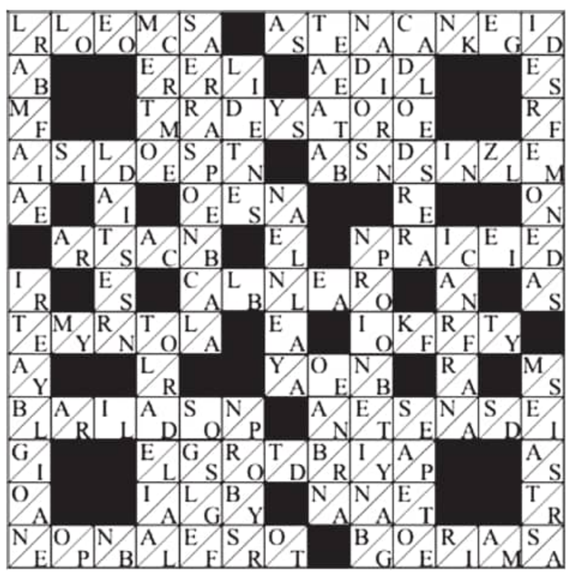
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



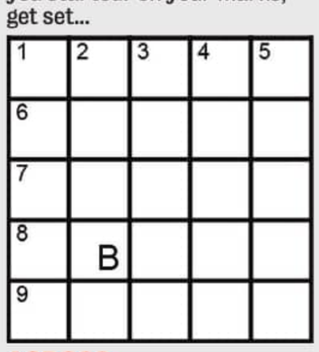
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

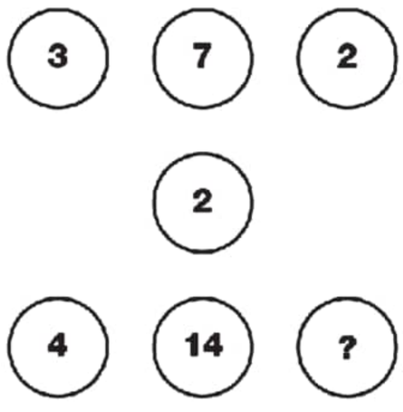
1 R hash; 6 Anile;
7 Milan; 8 Fab at;
9 Ileus

DOWN

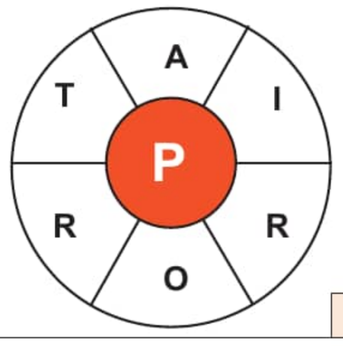
1 Allah; 2 Bail I;
3 Marie; 4 Fauns;
5 Thens

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last circle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **12** Good; **14** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		3			7			
		8					1	2
2					6	3	5	4
	7		9					3
		4	7		8	5		
6					4		7	
4	5	9	3					7
1	8					9		
			6			8		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 9

8 1 6 8

Medium

= 9

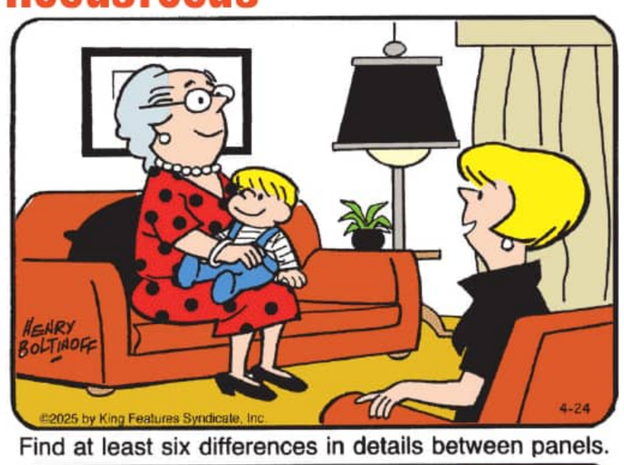
1 2 3 7

Hard

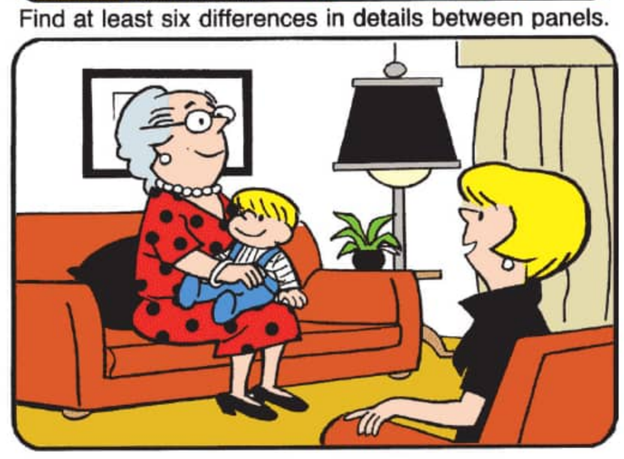
= 49

8 5 2 7

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



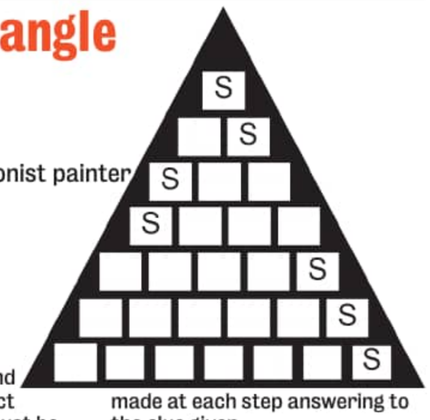
Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Hair is longer. 3. Shirt is different. 4. Plant is larger. 5. Pillow is smaller. 6. Sofa is wider.

Riddler

011 235 813 213 ??? What comes next?

Alpha triangle

1 Sulphur symbol
2 _ easy _ a pie
3 Body of water
4 Wise
5 French impressionist painter
6 Old sayings
7 Harms

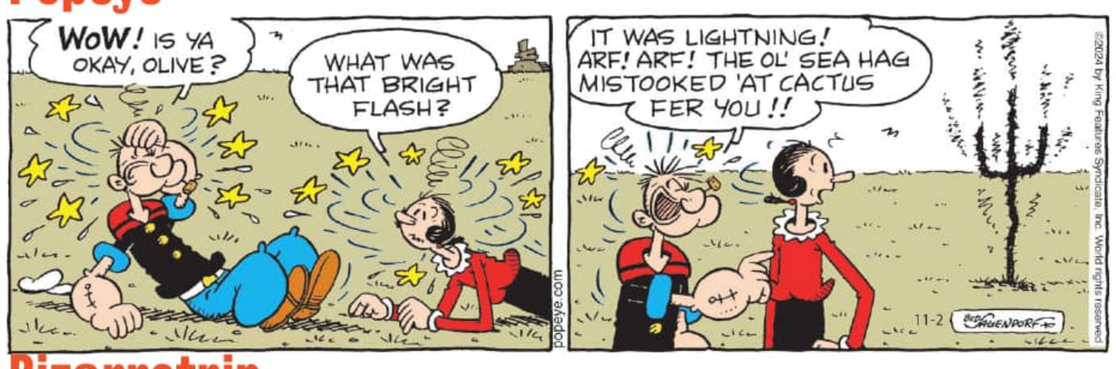


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


WOW! IS YA OKAY, OLIVE?
WHAT WAS THAT BRIGHT FLASH?
IT WAS LIGHTNING! ARF! ARF! THE OL' SEA HAG MISTOOKED 'AT CACTUS FER YOU!!
popeye.com
11-2
BUD SAGENDORF
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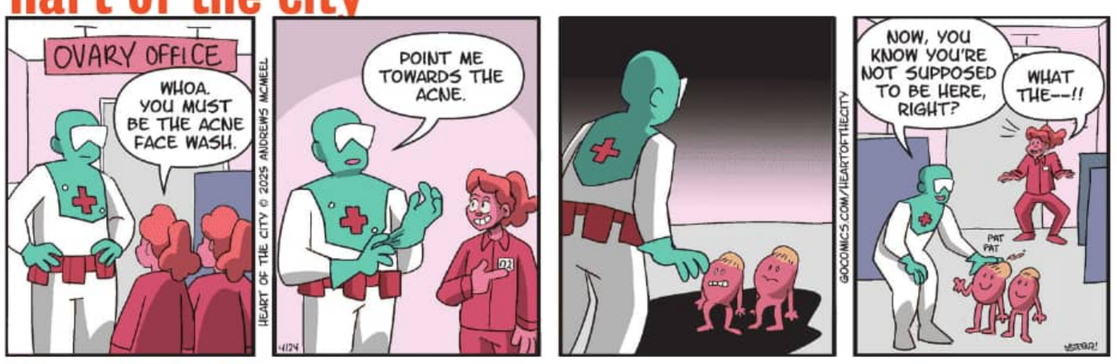
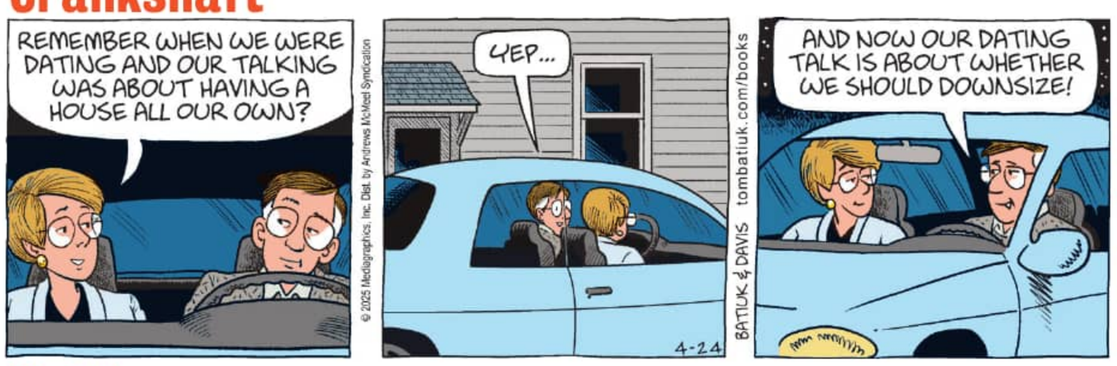
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


OVARY OFFICE
WHOA. YOU MUST BE THE ACNE FACE WASH.
POINT ME TOWARDS THE ACNE.
NOW, YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE, RIGHT?
WHAT THE--!!
PAT PAT
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE DATING AND OUR TALKING WAS ABOUT HAVING A HOUSE ALL OUR OWN?
YEP...
AND NOW OUR DATING TALK IS ABOUT WHETHER WE SHOULD DOWNSIZE!
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BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
4-24

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you might struggle with sleeplessness, which could make you feel lazy and affect your inner strength. A lack of focus may lead to nervousness at work, potentially disturbing ongoing projects. Avoid investing in non-productive ventures and steer clear of spicy food, as digestive issues are likely. Also, be cautious while driving.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Family matters may keep you busy today. You could take significant decisions on the domestic front. Avoid arguments in personal life, as arrogance could disturb household harmony. However, by evening, tensions may ease. Before making any investments, especially in business, trust your intuition.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
A positive Moon brings joy and emotional balance. You'll remain patient throughout the day, and your performance at work is likely to be appreciated—possibly even rewarded. Health concerns within the family may resolve. Job seekers may find opportunities that match their skills, and romantic partners can look forward to pleasant moments.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Results today may be mixed. Try not to expect too much from others, as it might lead to disappointment. Use this time for self-reflection and inner exploration. This process will help you rediscover your confidence and prepare you to tackle upcoming challenges more effectively.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
A sense of dissatisfaction may affect your mood. Lack of patience could interfere with your work efficiency, and small errors may occur. Seeking peace at a religious or spiritual place might help. Meditation or yoga is highly recommended to regain balance and clarity.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, the Moon's blessings bring fortune and focus. Your energy will be high, and hard work is likely to bring success. Support from colleagues will help you move forward. A short business-related trip may prove beneficial, and some uplifting news from a sibling could brighten your day.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Turbulent situations from the past settle down, bringing you peace of mind. You'll manage to balance income and expenses well, improving your financial condition. However, avoid excessive travel or overexertion, as it could impact your health. Students should start planning seriously for their future, and lovebirds may share joyful moments.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Support from family members will uplift your spirits today. You may see growth in the family business, which could enhance your social standing. Some of you may even plan to expand your family, strengthening bonds at home. Students might apply for scholarships or plan higher studies.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Health might be a concern today, particularly mental fatigue due to lack of sleep. This can lead to laziness and a lack of focus at work. Avoid risky adventures and unnecessary spending on worthless items. Caution is also advised while driving.

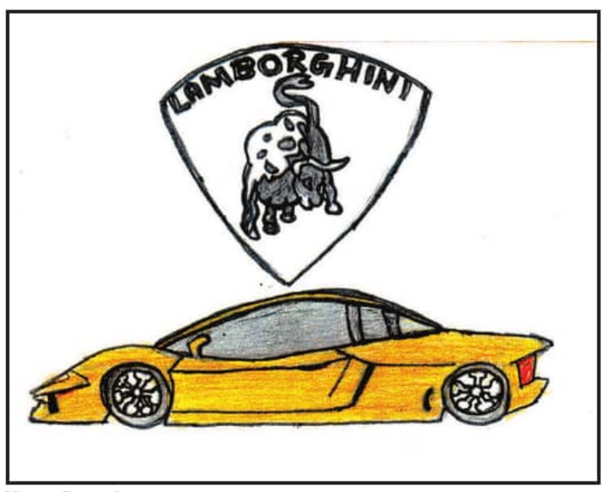
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
A cheerful mood surrounds you today. Harmony at home will make you feel emotionally fulfilled. Romantic moments with your spouse may further enhance your domestic bliss. Family members may support your professional decisions. New business ventures or partnerships could be on the horizon.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Spiritual energy will guide you today, and past investments may begin to show good returns. Your relationship with superiors at work may improve, possibly leading to career advancements. Good news from siblings is likely. However, be mindful of your words in personal and romantic relationships to avoid unnecessary friction.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may be socially active today and reconnect with old friends. Strengthening your network could bring professional benefits soon. Those involved in export-import, glamour, or the arts may perform especially well. Students are likely to succeed in their academic pursuits. Love life looks positive with enjoyable moments shared.

KIDZONE

Adithya, Bengaluru



Vivyn, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER 455. The numbers are from the Fibonacci sequence in groups of 3. The next numbers in the series are 34 (the 3 was already used in 213) and 55.

BULL'S EYE AIRPORT, atop, pair, parrot, part, patio, port, prior, rapt, raptor, tapir, tarp, trap, trip

FAST FIVE

H	A	R	S	H
A	L	I	N	E
L	I	M	A	N
A	B	A	F	T
L	I	E	U	S

QUOTE UNCODE Every creator painfully experiences the chasm between his inner vision and its ultimate expression.

STRIKE OUT

L	O	O	M	S		S	T	A	C	K	E	D		
A		E	E	L		A	I	L		E				
M		M	A	E	S	T	R	O		F				
A					E									
I	S	L	O	S	T		A	S	S	I	Z	E		
A		A		O	S	A		P	R	I	E	D		
I		E		A	B	L	E	R		N		S		
T	Y	R	O	L		E		I	F	F	Y			
A		R			Y	E	N		R		M			
L	A	I	D	O	N		A	T	E	A	S	E		
I		E	G	O	T	R	I	P				A		
A			A	L	B		N	N	E			T		
N	O	B	L	E	S	T		G	E	R	M	S		

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
6. Starting with the numbers in the top row, left to right, multiply each one by 2 and write the results in the lower row, from right to left.

SOLVE IN 1M
$\sqrt{(3! \times 4!)} =$
$\sqrt{(6 \times 24)} =$
$\sqrt{144} =$
12

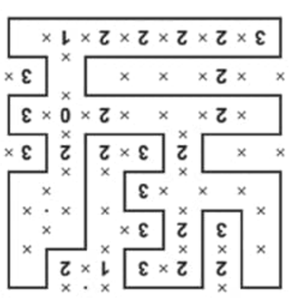
SUDOKU

7	3	2	6	5	9	8	4	1
1	8	6	4	7	2	9	3	5
4	5	9	3	8	1	2	6	7
6	9	5	2	3	4	1	7	8
3	2	4	7	1	8	5	9	6
8	7	1	9	6	5	4	2	3
2	1	7	8	9	6	3	5	4
9	6	8	5	4	3	7	1	2
5	4	3	1	2	7	6	8	9

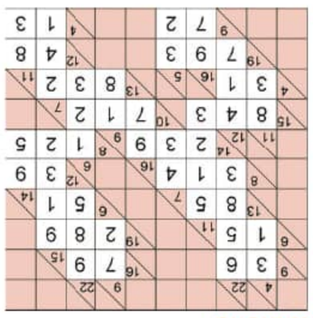
ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, As, Sea, Sage, Degas, Adages, Damages.

GO FIGURE
8 - 6 + 8 - 1 = 9
Easy
3 - 2 + 1 + 7 = 9
Medium
8 x 7 - 2 - 5 = 49
Hard
3 × 2 × 2 × 2 × 2 × 1 = 32

LOOP



KAKURO



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*T&C Apply. Fuel Efficiency as Certified by Test Agency under Rule 115 of CMVR, 1989 under standard Test Conditions, Actual Mileage on Road may vary. **Ex-showroom prices are applicable Pan India. ^Scheme Offers valid till 31st July 2025 only & may vary based on models and other parameters.
#Exchange bonus cannot be clubbed with scrappage bonus. ^^Please contact our authorised dealers for more information. Creative visualization. Digitally created visual. Picture of vehicle was not taken while driving.

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